REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to conform to U.S. practice and recite that the electrical contact element consists essentially of a copper tin alloy. Claims 4, 5, 6 and 7 have been amended to depend solely on Claim 1 eliminating their former multiple dependency. Further, Claims 2-7 have been amended to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein," in accordance with U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and respectfully request entry thereof prior to examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 26, 2004

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